

Appl. No. : 10/786,779
Filed : February 24, 2004

REMARKS

In the Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification, requiring an update of the status of prior Application No. 10/441,642. The specification has been amended to show that this application is a continuation of U.S. Ser. No. 10/441,642, filed May 20, 2003, issued September 28, 2004 as U.S. Patent No. 6,797,617. No new matter has been introduced. Thus, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment and withdrawal of this objection.

In the Claims

Claims 1-20 are currently pending.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Examiner rejected claims 10-20 because the specification, “while being enabling for the transfer chamber and the process chamber, does not reasonably provide enablement for the first chamber and the second chamber.” Applicants disagree, and contend the specification is properly enabled for the first and second chamber.

Initially, Applicants note that proper written description support for the first and second chamber can be found in paragraph [0010], which is also in the parent application, and in original claims 1-6 and 14-20 of the parent issued patent, No. 6,797,617.

In cases involving predictable factors, such as mechanical or electrical elements, a single embodiment provides broad enablement in the sense that, once imagined, other embodiments can be made without difficulty and their performance characteristics predicted by resort to known scientific laws. In re Fisher, 166 U.S.P.Q. 18 (C.C.P.A. 1970); Spectra-Physics v. Coherent, 3 U.S.P.Q.2d 1737 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (holding that disclosure and enablement of one specific mechanical process technique enables other undisclosed process techniques that are known or can be predictably applied by one skilled in the art). In the present case, a skilled artisan will recognize that the disclosed method in the instant application of transporting a workpiece in a semiconductor processing apparatus is not just specific to a process and transfer chamber. Rather, the skilled artisan will determine the recited mechanical method can readily and predictably be applied to any first and second chamber to reduce cross-contamination. The present application

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teaches structures and methods that provide a definitive flow direction from one chamber to the other upon opening the door therebetween (paragraph [0010], [0028], [0032], Fig. 3-4). Thus, the skilled artisan will readily appreciate the applicability of this principle to any two chambers regardless of identity, particularly in view of the original written description of "first" and "second" chambers.

Because the original parent specification contains clear written description support for, and also properly enables claims 10-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims be put in condition for allowance.

Obvious-type Double-Patenting Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 on the basis of an obvious-type double-patenting rejection over claims 1-25 of U.S. Patent No. 6,797,617. Please find attached a Terminal Disclaimer over claims 1-25 of U.S. Patent No. 6,797,617; we thus request the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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